

SEP 28 2006

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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. H01.2B-11444-US01

Amendments To The Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A tiller for a pedestrian-controlled fork-lift truck, comprising a hollow tiller rod having upper and lower ends, which has its lower end hinged to a support for a steerable wheel and has its other upper end connected to a loop-shaped handle which, ~~at the rear end~~, has a gripping portion extending crosswise to the tiller rod, a retaining extension extending into the interior of the handle as an elongation of the tiller rod, a handle means pivotally supported by the retaining extension which is coupled to a lifting means via a pusher or puller element within the tiller rod, wherein the handle means having an intermediate neutral pivoting position and two opposed pivoting positions in which it actuates the lifting means for a lifting or lowering operation, characterized in that the handle means is a loop-shaped elongated gripping element (24) including two approximately parallel extending long element portions (26, 28) which extend crosswise to the tiller axis, and two curved, short element portions (30, 32) interconnecting the long element portions (26, 28) which are located adjacent to the lateral gripping portions of the tiller handle (12) with the element portions being approximately in a common plane and the longer element portion (28) facing the pedestrian-controlled fork-lift truck being pivotally supported by the retaining extension (20).

2. (Currently Amended): The tiller according to claim 1, characterized in that the one of the other longer element portion (26) two approximately parallel extending long element portions, approximately centrally has a sub-portion (34) which is cambered out towards the crosswise extending gripping portion (20a).

3. (Original): The tiller according to claim 2, characterized in that the sub-portion (34) is

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cambered out upwardly from the plane of the element portions.

4. (Original): The tiller according to claim 1, characterized in that the plane of the handle (12) is inclined away from the fork-lift truck at an acute angle with respect to the rod axis and the long element portion (26) facing the transverse portion (20) of the handle (12) is located approximately in the handle plane.

5. (Original): The tiller according to claim 1, characterized in that the pivoting axis of the gripping element (24) is at the upper edge of the retaining extension (20) that faces the fork-lift truck and an actuating portion (44) of the gripping element (24) protrudes into the hollow retaining extension (20) wherein the pusher or puller element (62) is mounted on the actuating portion (44).

6. (Original): The tiller according to claim 5, characterized in that the actuating portion (44) has opposite stop surfaces (46, 48) at the inner end which bear on an inner wall of the retaining extension (20) in the opposed pivoting positions of the gripping element (24).

7. (Original): The tiller according to claim 5, characterized in that the actuating portion (44) has snapping means which interact with the retaining extension (20) to cause the gripping element (24) to be snapped into the neutral position.

8. (Original): The tiller according to claim 7, characterized in that the snapping means have at least one snapping ball (56, 58) biased by a spring (54) which interacts with an opening (60, 62).

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9. (Original): The tiller according to claim 8, characterized in that the actuating portion (44) has a transverse through bore (50) at the ends of which a snapping ball each (56, 58) is arranged, the snapping balls (56, 58) being biased by a spring (54) in the transverse bore (50).

10. (Original): The tiller according to claim 9, characterized in that the spring (54) is surrounded by a sleeve (52) in the transverse bore (50) and the sleeve (52) extends through an eye (64) of the pusher or puller element (62).

11. (Original): The tiller according to claim 5, characterized in that the upper edge of the retaining extension (20) has mounted thereon a bearing sleeve (22) which is extended through by a bearing pin (40) which, at the ends, is seated in a transverse bore which is seated in a thickened supporting portion (36) of the element portion (28).

12. (Original): The tiller according to claim 11, characterized in that the retaining extension (20) projects into a recess (38) of the supporting portion (36) with a spacing being provided between the walls of the recess (38) and the wall of the retaining extension (20).

13. (Original): The tiller according to claim 11, characterized in that the supporting portion (36) is concavely cambered towards the transverse portion (20a) of the tiller head (12).

14. (Original): The tiller according to claim 11, characterized in that the supporting portion (26) is of a circular contour as viewed from the operator side of the pedestrian-controlled

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fork-lift truck.

15. (Original): The tiller according to claim 1, characterized in that the gripping element (24) including the actuating portion (44) is integrally formed from a plastic, a metal alloy or another suitable material.

16. (Original): The tiller according to claim 1, characterized in that a curved hollow extension (70), into which a cable is passed for a cable brake of the pedestrian-controlled fork-lift truck, can be mounted on the retaining extension (20) at a spacing from the gripping element (24), a brake lever (72) is pivotally supported at the upper end of the extension (70) with the cable being joined to the end portion (74) of the brake lever (72) that projects into the hollow extension (70).

17. (Original): The tiller according to claim 16, characterized in that the brake lever (72) is pivotable in a plane which extends approximately in parallel with the plane of the tiller handle (12).

18. (Original): The tiller according to claim 16, characterized in that the brake lever (72) is angularly shaped, one leg being supported by the extension (70) and the other one forming a gripping portion.

19. (Original): The tiller according to claim 16, characterized in that a two-armed snapping lever (78) which is biased by a spring is tiltably supported in a slot of the brake lever

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(72), one arm (80) being associated with the gripping portion (76) of the brake lever (72) and the other arm (82) interacting with a stop surface of the extension (70) after the brake lever (72) is pivoted through a predetermined angle.

20. **(Original):** The tiller according to claim 19, characterized in that the free end of the extension (70) has formed thereon a recess (88) the bottom of which constitutes the stop surface.

21. **(Original):** The tiller according to claim 17, characterized in that the extension (70) is adapted to be releasably attached to the retaining extension (20).